

From: kendall
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 9:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am a software developer for a living and have worked on Microsoft/Sun/Linux/other platforms. I could enumerate a lengthy list of evidence concerning how Microsoft's market position has hurt innovation and therefore harmed consumers. I'm sure others have covered those points and that's not really the focus, now is it? Microsoft is guilty of the crimes charged. Period. Guilty.

Ok, so now what? The settlement proposed in no way penalizes the company for past deeds. It puts only minor restrictions on future actions and has loopholes that have been pointed out in several articles. As a citizen, a computer user, a professional and a voter, I believe a much more severe penalty must be imposed. Funds illegally earned must be taken away and given to the organizations struggling to change the software landscape. Specifically, academic institutions and non-profit organizations which contribute to Free Software projects! Just sit back and imagine a world where innovations that take place every day in government funded Universities actually get investment capital and see the light of day as Free Software. Free Software has the best potential for preserving intellectual investments and preventing future harm of the kind Microsoft is so famous for.

I'm not saying all software must be Free. But government has the power, the right and the responsibility to protect the citizens from Microsoft by taking the illegal profits and funding the best source of competition that exists today. Microsoft can buy almost any company that threatens to compete with it, but can not buy a Free Software product with all the money in the world.

I hope I've made my point without too much redundancy. I simply can not state strongly enough how meaningless I find the language in the proposed settlement.

Sincerely,
Kendall Bailey

Sent via the WebMail system at drakealumni.net